

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a first device, comprising:
digital content storage that stores digital content files; and
a monitoring system that monitors, at the first device, consumption of
digital content at a first device of a file selected from the digital content storage, and
generates usage data based on one or more usage events and indicative of the manner in
which the digital content is consumed;

~~a usage data storage system that collects the usage data of the monitored~~
~~consumption of the digital content at the first device, wherein the usage data includes data~~
~~associated with one or more usage events indicative of the manner in which the digital~~
~~content is consumed at the first device; and~~

a usage metrics system at a second device remote from the first device that
receives the stored usage data and processes the usage data to provide usage inference results
to a second device.

2. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the usage metrics system organizes the usage data into at least one of a plurality of categories comprising a genre type of digital content, time based consumption of the digital content and date based consumption of the digital content.

3. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the first device obtains the digital content from a content provider.

4. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 1 further comprising a recommendation system that generates digital content recommendations based on the usage results, the recommendation system providing the digital content recommendations to a content provider.

5. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 4 wherein the content provider selects additional digital content to send to the first device based on the digital content recommendations.

6. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the usage metrics system provides the usage results to at least one organization system comprising at least one of a content publisher, content developer, advertisement company, music chart company, music marketing company, marketing company and consulting firm.

7. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the digital content comprises at least one of digital music, digital documents, digital movies, and software.

8. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
storing at least one digital content file in memory of a first device;
monitoring, by the first device, consumption of digital content of the stored
digital content files, which are selected from the digital content storage for consumption at a
first device;

at the first device, generating usage data based on one or more usage events
and indicative of the manner in which the digital content is consumed;

collecting and storing the usage data of the monitored consumption of the
digital content at the first device, wherein the usage data includes data associated with one or
more usage events indicative of the manner in which the digital content is consumed at the
first device; and

transmitting the stored usage data to a second device remote from the first
device;

processing the usage data to provide usage inference results to a second
device.

9. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 8 wherein processing the usage data further comprises organizing the usage data into at least one of a plurality of

categories comprising a genre type of digital content, time based consumption of the digital content and date based consumption of the digital content.

10. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 8 further comprising obtaining the digital content at the first device from a content provider.

11. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 8 further comprising generating digital content recommendations based on the usage results.

12. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 11 further comprising selecting additional digital content to send to the first device based on the digital content recommendations.

13. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 8 further comprising providing the usage results to at least one organization system comprising at least one of a content publisher, content developer, advertisement company, music chart company, music marketing company, marketing company and consulting firm.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon, which when executed by at least one processor, causes the at least one processor to perform:

storing at least one digital content file in memory of a first device;
monitoring, by the first device, consumption of digital content of the stored
digital content files, which are selected from the digital content storage for consumption at a
first device;

at the first device, generating usage data based on one or more usage events
and indicative of the manner in which the digital content is consumed;

collecting and storing the usage data of the monitored consumption of the
digital content at the first device, wherein the usage data includes data associated with one or
more usage events indicative of the manner in which the digital content is consumed at the
first device; and

transmitting the stored usage data to a second device remote from the first device;

processing the usage data to provide usage inference results to a second device.

15. (Original) The medium as set forth in claim 14 wherein processing the usage data further comprises organizing the usage data into at least one of a plurality of categories comprising a genre type of digital content, time based consumption of the digital content and date based consumption of the digital content.

16. (Original) The medium as set forth in claim 14 further comprising obtaining the digital content at the first device from a content provider.

17. (Original) The medium as set forth in claim 14 further comprising generating digital content recommendations based on the usage results.

18. (Original) The medium as set forth in claim 17 further comprising selecting additional digital content to send to the first device based on the digital content recommendations.

19. (Original) The medium as set forth in claim 14 further comprising providing the usage results to at least one organization system comprising at least one of a content publisher, content developer, advertisement company, music chart company, music marketing company, marketing company and consulting firm.

20. (New) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the digital content comprises an audio file.

21. (New) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the usage data storage system is located in a portable digital audio player.

22. (New) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the first device is a portable device and the usage storage system is located in a computer.

23. (New) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the usage results include at least one inference of preference of a consumer of the digital content.

24. (New) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the usage results include at least one inference of habit of a consumer of the digital content.

25. (New) The method as set forth in claim 8, wherein the usage results include at least one inference of preference of a consumer of the digital content.

26. (New) The method as set forth in claim 8, wherein the usage results include at least one inference of habit of a consumer of the digital content.

27. (New) The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 14, wherein the usage results include at least one inference of preference of a consumer of the digital content.

28. (New) The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 14, wherein the usage results include at least one inference of habit of a consumer of the digital content.